

1-1-2001

BT 606 New Testament Theology

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Recommended Citation

Fisher, Mary E., "BT 606 New Testament Theology" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 591.
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2001 Spring Term

Biblical Theology 606: New Testament Theology

ONE

Purpose:

1. To firmly establish a Trinitarian, Christologically focused, narrative "understanding" of the theological nature of the Christian Canon.
2. To understand the Christian Canon, New Testament AND Old Testament, as witnessing to the self-revelation of the Trinitarian Creator Covenant God, Father Son and Spirit, in the Trinitarian-Jesus-of-Nazareth-event.
3. To focus the Christian Canon as the authoritative Word of God for the people of God, who are called to declare the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, throughout the world.
4. To acknowledge the historical groundedness and diverse literary forms within the Christian Canon while asserting the authority of the Christian Canon for the Church [Community] of Jesus Christ
5. To consider representative theological themes and their development in the New Testament, employing methodology of the contemporary Biblical Theology discipline.
6. To recognize that the New Testament CANNOT be understood properly without the Old Testament. To clearly recognize that the New Testament, the inspired witness of the apostolic community to the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, completes the revelation of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. Its witness unveils mystery regarding Israel's God Yahweh, the Creator Covenant God, and reflects co-inhering metaphorical development within the two testaments Christian Canon.
7. To consider the inherent co-inherence between Old Testament and New Testament Theology within the Christian Canon.
8. To firmly establish a Trinitarian, Christologically focused, narrative "understanding" of the theological nature of the Christian Canon.

TWO

Limitations:

1. In 39 hours of classes, together with required texts, there is no way that a Theology of the New Testament can be covered. Along with the reading this is a foundational course focusing students to further develop their theological understanding of the New Testament.

THREE

The Learning Process: Learning Difficulties and Class Attendance Requirements

1. **Please** let me know if you have any **learning difficulties**. This is very important as I want to facilitate our learning in whatever way is needed.
2. I will be taking class attendance.

Students with **unexcused** absences will be penalized in grading.

I would ask you to present a written request or email request for an excused absence. I apologize for this but it will help my organization.

For each one week of unexcused classes missed the grade will be lowered by 5 points.

This is necessary as both videos and class discussion and community contribute to our becoming more like Jesus of Nazareth beyond the notes available on the computer drive or on the library reserve desk.

If you are absent but are able to ¹ arrange to listen to a tape of the class and ² watch any video shown in the class and ³ talk with your small group or myself about what happened in class this will be counted as your being present.

A signed record of having completed that "make-up" task will be required. A form relating to 'excused absences' and the 'make-up class' as well as late assignments is on the back page. I will have extra forms with me each class session.

Where a student is absent for more than one week of unexcused classes further absences of any kind potentially could lead to a lowered grade. I will be contacting any student in such a situation.

FOUR

Lecture Notes:

I will be placing my lecture notes and notes relating to any videos used in class on the Lectures drive of the computer network. I also will place a hard copy on reserve. Where possible this will occur at least two days ahead of class.

Accessing lectures through the Seminary email system is possible by going to the Desktop Icon/ Students Icon/ Lecture Power Point Icon.

There will be a reserve notebook for lecture notes for BT 606 and another notebook covering Video Notes and Resource material - two notebooks in total for BT 606- on reserve.

The entire script of the videos by N.T. Wright is on reserve in a book called **Jesus, The New Way**. This is a brilliant resource. I would encourage you to look at it. It has 93 pages.

In printing Power Point material notice the box which reads:

Print what:

Options available include: Outline View
 Handouts - (6 slides per page)
 Notes Pages

FIVE

Discussion:

I would hope you feel free to raise questions or disagreements with the presenter or required texts. I welcome such dialogue both inside and outside the class.

I have placed a weekly schedule for meetings outside of class on my office door. This will cover an advance two-week period. Please sign where the sheet is marked AVAILABLE MEETING TIME.

At the moment there are 10 to 12 concrete times available for meetings. The times are to be on Tuesday and Thursday.

To enable all students the opportunity for personal interaction I would ask you initially keep appointments to 30 minutes.

When my office door is wide open on other occasions that means you are welcome to come in and chat, otherwise please make an appointment by signing up on the office door. There is other opportunity for meeting if all the appointments in a week fill up - please regard this appointment time offered as the minimum time - certainly not the maximum time. **If none of the times of the door are suitable then approach me for alternative times.** I also will be available for luncheon appointments - Tuesday, and Thursday- and dinner appointments. Thank-you.

SIX

Regulations Regarding Assignments:

1. **Assignments handed in late will be penalized unless alternative arrangements have been made at least one week in advance, or unexpected situations arise such as family priorities, illness or 'acts of God'.** This is unfortunate but I find it necessary.
2. When asking for extensions I need a signed form to accompany the request. A copy of the form to be signed is on the back of this syllabus. I will have copies of those forms at every class. When an extension is needed have both you and myself countersign the request. I will return a copy to you after recording the permitted extension. This is to assist me in ensuring my orderly recording of your request for an extension.
3. I do mark papers extensively. *It normally takes me about an hour to mark one paper.* I will return material to you within a one week period from receiving your paper. If you want your paper returned earlier please recognize it will not be written upon but I will read it carefully. You need to let me know if you want it back sooner than one week.
4. **I only will accept your assignment in the box outside my office door, 102B.** I will not accept your assignments anywhere on the campus other than at my office. This ensures I do not misplace your paper outside the boundaries of my office.
5. **Unless otherwise negotiated** each person is to hand in an individual assignment. But as theology is a communal activity I encourage you to work with others on your assignment research and discussion.

SEVEN

Study Group

I require you be in a study group. This study group must meet a minimum of one and a half hours each three weeks for a minimum of four times.

A study group must have a minimum of two persons in it. I would prefer there be three persons.

These study groups are to be finalized by Thursday, February 22nd, 2001. The names of persons in the study group are to be placed in the black basket outside my door by 5 PM. **Thursday, February 22nd.**

Recognizing family relationships, church relationships, work responsibility and relaxation, I know it is difficult for you to find the extra hours over the semester, but I believe this to be a very important part of the program.

Study Group Discussion:

1. Each person is to come to the study group with at least one new thing learned in the class; and one new thing learned from the text.
2. After initial discussion please start discussing issues that are unclear, or that you disagree with, from class or text.

By 5 PM on Thursday **March 1st, March 22nd, April 5th, April 19th** I would like one question/disagreement/blinding revelation arising from the discussion of your group relating to class or text in the black box outside my door. This is worth **twenty percent** of your grade. Each person is to sign the sheet so that I know these questions have risen out of communal discussion. Please encourage each other to participate.

Please place all your names on the sheet.

I would ask your study group to consider one of those sessions as a time when you while talking, participate in a community activity – such as *HANDS across the community*, or babysitting for a spouse, or running some errands for someone else, or serving someone else in a practical way while talking. The purpose of this is to recognize **that the Word is never divorced from incarnational activity**. This is worth five percent of your grade. It is an attempt to help you consider that theology ultimately is an incarnational activity. I will require you to hand in a signed note to say that you have completed this as a group by 5 PM Thursday, **May 3rd**.

EIGHT

Reading Requirements:

A. For Extra Credit:

Adler, Mortimer: **How To Read a Book**.

If you read this book and pass in the 1-2 page report on it by 5 PM Thursday, **March 1st**, you can move your grade up by half a grade up to the level of B+. It will NOT help in moving from a B+ to A- or A- to A.

If you **ALREADY** have read this book and handed me a report in a previous class, you may pass in an alternative book report to gain this extra credit. The alternative book **report will cover up to page 105** in N. T. Wright, *The Crown and the Fire: Meditations on the Cross and the Life of the Spirit*, [Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1998]. **Only if you already have handed in an**

Adler book report in a previous class with me may you do this for extra credit. *This book is on the reserve shelves in the library.*

This book report for extra credit is to be in the black basket outside my door by Thursday, March 1st.

B. Required Reading

1. N.T.Wright, ***The Prodigal Son***. This audiotope is on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be complete by

For those who have completed this assignment in another class, or are simultaneously enrolled in BT 605 and BT 606 a report on an alternative Elizabeth Achtemeir audiotope ***Old Testament Roots of Our Faith - God's Promise to Abraham*** is to be completed by March 1st.

2. N. T. Wright, ***The Challenge of Jesus***. InterVarsity Press, 1999. To be completed by **March 1st**.
3. John Oswalt, "Called To Be Holy - A Biblical Perspective" Nappanee, Indiana: Evangel Publishing House, 1999. To be completed by Thursday, **March 15th** -[with the exception of those students who previously have read ***The Challenge of Jesus before in a class for me*** or are taking BT 605 and BT606 at the same time and consequently have to complete a book report on this book.
4. N. T. Wright, ***The New Testament And The People Of God***, Fortress Press, 1992. To be completed by Thursday, **April 12th**.
5. Doug Farrow, ***Ascension And Ecclesia: On The Significance of the Doctrine of the Ascension for Ecclesiology and Christian Cosmology, Chapter 2 pages 15-40***, Eerdmans, 1999. To be completed by Thursday, April 19th **2000. This book is on the Reserve Desk.**
6. Richard Bauckham, ***God Crucified***. Eerdmans, 1998. To be completed by Thursday, May 3rd **2000.**
7. Richard Hays, ***The Moral Vision of the New Testament***, Harper and Collins, 1996. Sections to be read. Preface, Introduction up to p. 309; Section on Divorce pages 347 - 378; Section on homosexuality 379 -406; Section of Abortion 444 - 470. Please recognize there are other brilliant sections to this class that I am not requiring in class but would encourage you to read at some time in the future. To be completed by **exam week**.
8. **CAESKET OVERVIEW** - One laminated page.
9. Movie: **The Miracle Worker**: Date to be arranged. Bring your spouse and children if you wish to.

NINE

Written work

Please do not place your name on each page. Place it either on the cover page or the back page. But please **DO** place you name on the work.

Repeat: Please do NOT place your name on each page. **Please do not use fancy print or colored ink in the printing of your paper.** I do not want to be aware of the author of the work while marking.

TEN

Alternatives

If you wish to present your work in an alternative style – CD-ROM, ArtWork or Video please feel free to do so.

In the case of Video it will be impossible to be unaware who you are if your appear on it so I will attempt to be as neutral as possible in such marking.

ELEVEN

Terms Assessment:

1. N.T.Wright, *The Prodigal Son*. This audiotope is on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be completed by 5 p.m., Thursday, March 1st. For those who have completed this assignment in another of my classes, a report on an alternative Elizabeth Achtemeir audiotope *Old Testament Roots of Our Faith - God's Promise to Abraham* is to be handed in.

A maximum 500-word summation of the audiotope is to be handed in **WITH** the **required [as opposed to extra credit]** book report below detailed below by 5 p.m. Thursday, **March 1st**. This one page **report on the audiotope** will count as **five percent** of your grade. A perfect five percent for handing in one page is **not** automatic.

2. Book Report

- A. Students Who Have **Not** Previously Completed A Book Report on **The Challenge of Jesus** for Mary Fisher.
 - The book report is required on the book by N. T. Wright, **The Challenge of Jesus**. InterVarsity Press 1999.
- B. Students Who Have Previously Completed A Book Report on **The Challenge of Jesus** for Mary Fisher.
 - The book report is required on the book by John Oswalt, **Called To Be Holy - A Biblical Perspective**. Evangel Publishing House, 1999

Please follow the format for book reports found in the Resource icon on the Computer Desktop Screen by Joel Green and Brent Strawn. A hard copy of this article is in the Videos/Resources Folder in the Library.

On this requirement a **MAXIMUM** 10 page (2,000 word) book report is required by 5 PM, Thursday, **March 1st**.

This book report will count as **twenty percent** of your grade.

3. **Exam**

Due 5 PM, Thursday, April 19th in the box outside my door.

This will be a take home exam given to you next week. You may prepare for it as long as you like. I do not want you to hand me in more than **2,000 words ABSOLUTELY**

MAXIMUM on the exam. There will be one question covering John Oswalt **Called To Be Holy - A Biblical Perspective**, and Wright's **The New Testament And The People Of God** and Chapter Two from Doug Farrow's **Ascension And Ecclesia: On The Significance of the Doctrine of the Ascension for Ecclesiology and Christian Cosmology** This will count as 25 per cent of the semester grade.

Please outline the structure of your answer as you prepare. I want to see the logical development of your exam come through as I read your argument. If you wish you can show that outline – not included in the 2,000 words.

You can work together with your groups on this assignment.

4. Exam

There will be a final exam. This will cover 25 percent of the semester grade. This will cover Bauckham, Hays and the class work.

TWELVE

Grading System

As declared on Page 24 of the Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog for 1998 – 2000

A = Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives

B = Good work: achievement of course objectives

C = Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives

D = Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives

F = Unacceptable work: failure of course objectives

My grading framework to fit Asbury's directives is:

A- = 90%	A = 94%	
B- = 80%	B= 84%	B+ = 97%
C- = 70%	C= 74%	C+ = 77%
D- = 60%	D= 64%	D+ = 67%

BT 606 New Testament Theology Assignment Schedule And Grading Arrangements For The Fall 2000 Semester			
Required Work	Maximum Points Available	Time Due 5p.m. Thursday [with the exception of the Final Exam]	Explanation
February 16th 3 p.m. Last Day to drop a course with refund; close of all registration for additional courses.			
Study Groups		February 22	Study Groups are to be finalized.
Extra Credit	5 points	March 1st	Extra credit work can increase a grade up to a B+; not from a B+ to an A-, or from an A- to an A.
Tape and Book Reports	5 and 20 points = 25 points total	March 1st	Students Do Not Automatically Receive Full Points Simply For Handing In The Required Report
March 23rd: Last day to drop courses without an F			
4 Group Discussions Questions To Be Signed By All Group Members	5 points each [total of 20 points]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 1st 2. March 22nd 3. April 5th 4. April 19th 	Students are to meet 1.5 hours [one and a half hours] minimum on four separate occasions. I would prefer groups to have a minimum of three persons.
Mid Term Exam You will receive the exam February 15th	25 points	April 19th	This will be a take home exam and may be undertaken as a communal activity. If students wish to make it into a creative activity - that is encouraged.
Group Activity To Be Signed By All Group Members	5 points	May 3rd	During one of the above discussion times some kind of service activity is expected.
Final Exam	25 points	Exam Week	This will be a take home exam. It will cover class material, Bauckham and parts of Hays.
Total Points	100 [plus 5 extra credit]		

1. Excused Absence Or Assignment Extension

Date of Absence From Class:

Reason For Absence From Class:

Date Assignment Now Due:

Student's Signature:

Professor's Signature:

2. Make-Up Class

If you wish to have this class marked as your being present please complete the following work and hand in the signed form.

Listened To An AudioTape of Class: Student's Signature:

Watched Any Video Shown In Class: Student's Signature:

Marked In Attendance Roll As Present: Professor's Signature: